



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

### 8,391: Empirical Policy Evaluation

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (individual in groups - individual grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,391,1.00 Empirical Policy Evaluation](#) -- Englisch -- [Pisch Frank](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

A good grasp of basic econometrics and statistics is mandatory. Moreover, students need a good understanding of advanced high school level differential calculus and probability theory - random variables and their distributions.

#### Learning objectives

Students can expect that after this course they will remember and understand the most common methods of empirical policy evaluation, including their assumptions and limitations. Students will apply their conceptual knowledge in the analysis of prominent research papers from various areas in economics, and create their own assessments of the validity of each respective research design. Finally, students will train their presentation skills both actively during their own slots, and passively by analysing their peers' presentations.

#### Course content

This three-days course provides advanced training for the most common methods for quantitative public policy evaluation. Taking turns, we revise key concepts and methods and strengthen our understanding of causal inference by studying research articles from a wide range of relevant economic areas. Topics include the fundamental problem of causality, selection on observables, experimental evaluation, instrumental variables, naturally occurring control groups in Difference-in-Differences and Regression Discontinuity Designs.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students sign up for presentations of research articles in the beginning of the term. The interactive part of the course is spread over three consecutive days.

Day 1: Revision of the problem of causality, matching, regression, and experimental evaluation; student presentations (45 mins each).

Day 2: Revision of IV and RDD; student presentations (45 mins each).

Day 3: Revision of DiD; student presentations (45 mins each).

#### Course literature



"Mastering 'Metrics" (2014) by J.D. Angrist and J. Pischke, Princeton University Press.

Miscellaneous research articles provided in the beginning of term.

## Additional course information

In case of another lockdown, the course will take place online. Students will be notified of changes in the course structure as soon as possible via Canvas and/or email.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual in groups - individual grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

--

##### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

##### Supplementary aids

No supplementary aids are allowed in this examination

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

---

#### 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

--

##### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und



Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

### Supplementary aids

No supplementary aids are allowed in this examination

### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

---

## Examination content

The examination consists of two parts, each accounting for 50% of the overall grade. The first part is a group presentation during the three-day seminar. The second part is a short group report on the research article presented. Instructions will be provided during the term and in case of low attendance, students can be asked to present and write (shorter) reports.

## Examination relevant literature

None.

### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 27 January 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 11 April 2022).